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On 12/23/02

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Nikhi Hewell

#5
Amended
1/14/03
PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michael I. Watkins and Richard B. Edwards

Application No.: 09/905,338

Filed: July 13, 2001

For: MULTIPLEX FLOW ASSAYS
PREFERABLY WITH MAGNETIC
PARTICLES AS SOLID PHASE

Examiner: Stucker

Art Unit: 1648

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 24, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 21 without prejudice to read as follows:

1. ~~21.~~ (Amended) A composition comprising a plurality of solid-phase assay reagents selectively active in a plurality of assays each for a different analyte, each said solid-phase assay reagent comprising a binding species that is selectively active in a single assay and coupled to one of a plurality of microparticles of magnetically responsive material, the sizes of said microparticles varying in size over a range that is an aggregate of a plurality of subranges, each subrange distinguishable from other subranges

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